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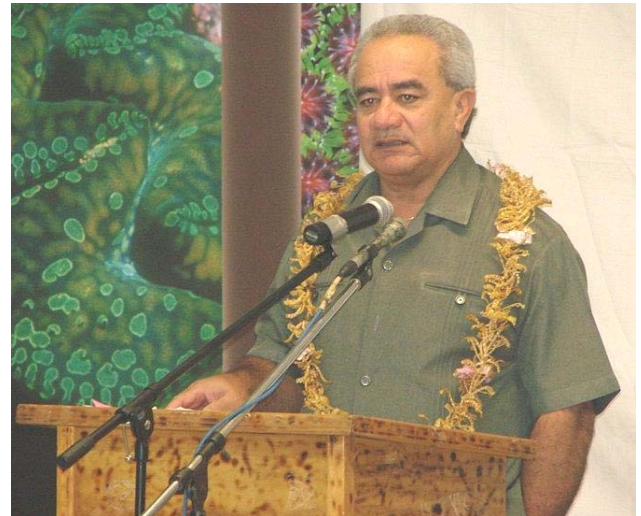
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Governor Togiola Tulafono launches October Domestic Violence Awareness Month



(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono launched October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In a ceremony at the Convention Center earlier this month, coordinated by the American Samoa Coalition on Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and the Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS), Governor Togiola, in his remarks, focused on prevention and early intervention to assist in curtailing uncontrolled anger that leads to violence in the home.

"Violence that happens in your home is domestic violence whether it is spouse to spouse or parents to child. Domestic violence is domestic violence. It is our job to find ways to slow down and defuse and diffuse this anger so violence does not occur."

Governor Togiola Tulafono

The launch was attended by representatives of Mapusaga o Aiga (Family Haven) of Apia, Samoa, the American Samoa Coalition on Teen Pregnancy Prevention, American Samoa Community College, Baha'i Faith, Catholic Diocese of Samoa - Pago Pago, Catholic Social Services, Center for Families of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, Drug-Free and Truancy programs at DOE, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Kanana Fou Theological Seminary, Maternal Child Health and Rape Prevention programs at the Department of Health, Methodist Church, Office of Samoan Affairs, Office of Tourism at DOC, Pago Pago Village Council, Teen Challenge Ministries, U'una'i Legal Services, Victims of Crimes Advocacy and Prevention programs of DHSS, YWCA American Samoa and YWCA Samoa.

(See the full text of Governor Togiola's remarks on page 2)

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OCTOBER - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

by Gov. Togiola Tulafono

“October as Domestic Violence Month is a month to remind us to look back, look forward, and look at what we’ve done in the past year. We have addressed domestic violence in the home, in our village, in church and across the Territory and we must continue to promote awareness until we completely stop the violence on our island, permanently.

It is often difficult to address a crowd like yourselves on this topic since the ones who should be hearing this are not present. Or, could I be wrong? I’m sure the ones needing the message are elsewhere rather than with us today. They know who they are and they know it is wrong to commit domestic violence against others in the home and community.

It is important for us to emphasize the need to explore the root of the problem. In the past, for us here in Samoa, there is a label or stereotype of a man who beats his wife. He is labeled as a wife beater or *‘fasi ava’*. Some people are remembered by great feats, but in this case a man will always be remembered as a *‘fasi ava’* and would forever be referred to as the man who is a wife beater.

The question is then, why do men beat their wives? From memory, I can recall two reasons why a man would beat his wife.

Firstly, and sadly, it is a show of strength. The man wants to demonstrate his strength and control. The problem with this is, it reveals a man who instead, displays the qualities of a coward for not looking for another male to test his strength. Resorting to beating his wife who cannot fight back physically perhaps gives him control but then he also remains a coward.

Secondly, and again, sadly, a man with a short fuse or filled with uncontrolled anger loses his temper easily which leads to the explosion and in most cases, violence. A short fuse as soon as you light it, blows up very quickly and this is the other cause for the violence we see around us. I believe that most of us sitting in here today are long fused, or have a long fuse, like me, it takes a while to blow up, if at all. If the fuse is extinguished then we do not have a violent situation.

Men, it is our duty to extend the length of our fuses. It would be ideal to have a very long fuse that when it burns there is a chance that it would be extinguished before the explosion. I recall seeing a public service announcement from the military that advises that before you react with anger, sit quietly and close your eyes, and start counting slowly to ten. When counting to ten, your voice is lowered and your anger has lowered as well and you are in control of your anger.

Some of the major causes and stressors creating misunderstandings, which often leads to violence in the home, stem from: (1) unmet financial demands (2) lack of communication and (3) not being satisfied with what you have and wanting other peoples things, like somebody else’s wife, and then coming home and pick a fight with the wife.

Despite a few of these reasons, I believe that the main reason is uncontrolled anger. It is hard to believe that there is a person that is happy beating up their wife. “I’m sorry darling, you were made by my rib, but I have to beat you up because I love you and to show you that I’m happy.” What a scenario! “I’m going to beat you up because I’m very happy.” Imagine it! I have never heard of a situation like that, have you?

Back to my ‘count to ten method.’ After counting to ten and taking a deep breath, and maybe even sing a verse of a hymn like *‘...na soona olioli nei, lo’u loto ia Iesu...’* I’m pretty sure that the anger fuse would have grown longer and the anger that could lead to violence would have been controlled and extinguished very quickly.

Spouse abuse is not only about women. I must add, although a small percentage and a minority, there are women who beat their husbands and particularly those in de-facto relationships. Violence that happens in your home is domestic violence whether it is spouse to spouse or parents to child. Domestic violence is domestic violence is domestic violence.

It is our job to find ways to slow down and defuse and diffuse this anger so violence does not occur. For us parents, our Christian values and beliefs on spanking our children in order for them to do well in life may need to be looked at. There’s a difference between a spank (*sasa*), and to beat (*fasi*). A sasa, or spank, is not a beating, but a fasi, or beating, is abuse. We use a sasa as a form of discipline and should be carried out with love (*alofa*) and never in anger (*ita*). Our duty as parents and carers is to watch how we are fulfilling these acts.

In closing, again I say, it all comes down to our inability to control our anger, our inability to manage our anger. My challenge for 2007, as we launch October as National Month of Awareness on Domestic Violence, is for us all to become unified in finding a cure for anger. If we can manage anger and communicate with one another, we would get wonderful results. Spread the word in your village, in your church, in your work place, that when you are angry, count from 1 to 10 slowly, sing a hymn, pray or just breathe in deeply.

Today, I encourage the American Samoa Coalition on Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention, your partner agencies and the Department of Human and Social Services to focus on prevention and early intervention. The cure for violence is not through punishment after the act. We must promote the freedom we continue to enjoy on our island to live our lives free from abuse, and to continue to live a safe and happy life within our families, our communities and starting from within our homes.

Soifua.”

ASG shatters record in savings last month

Call it what you want but the American Samoa Government managed to cut its spending by over \$15 million in one month - a truly remarkable performance for the record books.

This year alone, ASG hasn't been able to reduce its spending by even half that amount compared to last year.

According to the financial overview report for September 2007 for local funds, ASG spending for September 2007 fell to a whopping \$5,963,078 down from almost four times that number (\$21,384,889) in September 2006.

The four-page report, which was submitted from ASG Treasurer Velega Savali to Governor Togiola Tulafono, states that all but seven departments and agencies cut their spending last month compared to the same time last year.

The Governor's Office led the way by cutting its spending by more than half from \$517,135 in September 2006 to only \$230,991 last month. The Judiciary followed suit by dropping its expenditures to \$114,433 last month, down from \$185,053 last September.

But the biggest drop came from the Treasury Department which went from spending \$8,866,109 last September to only a fraction of that - \$484,879 - last month. Other notable reductions come from the "Miscellaneous" expenses category which totaled \$0 last month but expended over \$3 million the same time last year. Funds transfers also decreased significantly from \$2,120,344 last September to only \$594,710 last month.

Other notable savings came from the following sources:

SOURCE	2007	2006
Legislature	\$474,386	\$654,665
Agriculture	\$71,552	\$146,010
Education	\$1,559,552	\$2,111,391
Legal Affairs	\$251,100	\$557,101
Local Government	\$180,705	\$190,795
Health	\$122,024	\$137,089
Port Admin	\$203,679	\$274,299
Public Works	\$518,641	\$590,072
Commerce	\$15,024	\$62,759
Territorial Auditor's Office	\$10,802	\$12,993
Human Resources	\$90,152	\$103,795
Public Safety	\$466,063	\$606,703
Marine Resources	\$12,381	\$33,953
Tourism	\$28,739	\$54,909
Arts Council	\$426	\$4,212
Territorial Admin. on Aging	\$0	\$1,075
Administrative Services	\$69,853	\$174,981
Procurement	\$67,853	\$97,839
Elections	\$9,987	\$45,901
Dept. Human and Social Services	\$0	\$373,001
Law Office	\$12,837	\$23,996
Public Market	\$10,887	\$17,004
Golf Course	\$33,945	\$38,521

The savings could be attributed to the actions of Treasurer Savali and comptroller Brian Mix who refused payment on numerous invoices submitted last month as the fiscal year was coming to an end and too much money had been depleted. Case in point is the Fono who went over their budget and could not cover the last two payrolls prior to the close of FY07.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On October 24, 1912, President William Howard Taft commissioned Commander William Michael Crose as "Governor of American Samoa." Prior to this, American Samoa's governors had been commissioned as "Governor of Tutuila," which, Crose felt, was a slight to the Manu'ans.

On October 24, 1958, the American Samoa Government, in cooperation with the US Geological Survey's Surface and Ground Water Division, installed a stream gage recorder in the A'asu Stream. This device recorded an average low flow of 750,000 gallons per day and an average high flow of 20 million gallons.

On October 25, 1945, a census revealed that "approximately 1600" Western Samoan children had American military fathers.

On October 27, 1951, the Legislature of American Samoa met in a special one-day session "to discuss organic legislation problems with Congressmen Monroe M. Redden and Fred L. Crawford and the Chief Counsel of [the] Office of Territories, Irwin W. Silverman."

On October 28, 1888, the first conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was held on Aunu'u. At this conference, the Church's first meeting house, which measured 18 by 36 feet, was dedicated. Elder William O. Lee was sustained as the Superintendent of the Sabbath School, with Manoa and Adelbert Beasley as his first and second counselors.

On October 28, 1943, Lieutenant Commander C.T. Gilliam, USN, completed his Facilities Survey Report for the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila. He recommended that Tutuila be used for these purposes in the future war effort: (1) As a central headquarters for the Samoan Defense Group; (2) As a rear logistic supply depot; (3) As a supporting defense link in the frontal ring of island bases; (4) As a fueling depot; (5) As an anchorage, watering station and repair station; (6) As a search and weather station for observation planes; (7) As a hunter-killer station for antisubmarine warfare, and (8) As a jungle training area. (In fact, USNS Tutuila eventually performed all eight of these functions).

On October 29, 1895, Makelita Young, the only female ruler of Manu'a, died in a fire at age 23.

On October 29, 1913, Commander Clark Daniel Stearns presided over his first Annual Meeting at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa. The meeting was short, and focused primarily on the issue of public health. Governor Stearns announced that a nursing school for Samoan students would soon be started.

On October 29, 1941, "The Commanding Officer, 7th Defense [Battalion], Lieutenant Colonel L.A. DESSEZ, U.S. Marine Corps, pointed out to the Commandant, U.S. Naval Station, Samoa [i.e., U.S. Naval Station Tutuila], that only 160 Samoans had been enlisted in the [First] Samoan Battalion and that approximately 50 prospects remained to be enlisted. He recommended that the men working for the Navy Contractors and the Public Works Officer be made available for recruiting, otherwise the complement of 500 for the Samoan Battalion could not be realized." In his endorsement on November 13, 1941, the Commandant, Captain Laurence Wild, USN, authorized Lieutenant Colonel Dessez "to confer directly" with the Resident Officer-in-Charge, Pacific Naval Air Base Contract NoY 4174, and to make arrangements to recruit men employed by the Contractor."

Korea House in Pago Pago to serve as temporary marketplace

Long awaited repairs to the deteriorating Fagatogo Marketplace will finally be carried out thanks to a \$2.1 million grant from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the US Department of Commerce.

The demolition and reconstruction of a new, more modern Fagatogo Marketplace – proposed to be a two-story facility featuring stalls used for the sale from fish to Samoan been a long time on the project is commence sometime

Operations at the including vendors produce and breakfast temporarily housed at House in Pago Pago Marketplace facelift.

Earlier this year, Tulafono announced the run down building center. The Korea located on but owned by an Asian



Marketplace, selling local goods will be the old Korea while the Fagatogo undergoes a major

Governor Togiola his hopes to turn into a YMCA House, which is government land businessman, has

been unoccupied for many years after a big fire ripped through the structure and caused serious damages.

Further talks about the matter will take place later this week between representatives from ASG departments of Public Works, Agriculture, Commerce, and the Governor's Office.

On his weekend radio talk show, Togiola explained that the Korea House was decided upon because of its vacancy status and its accessibility to the public. Public Works director Taeaotui Punafo Tili's staff members have been busy cleaning and clearing the surrounding area in preparation for the big move-in, while the Governor seeks funding to carry out the renovation work.

If everything goes as planned, the temporary marketplace should be ready for occupancy as early as next month.

Anyone with questions or inquiries may contact the Department of Agriculture or The Office of the Governor.

Feleti Barstow Public Library to co-sponsor Peace Poster Contest for fourth year

As they have done in the past three years, the Feleti Barstow Public Library is partnering up with the Lions Club to sponsor the Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

The contest is open to children between 11-13 years old representing local schools, organizations, or sponsored youth groups.

"Lions clubs around the world host the Peace Poster Contest in their community to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere," said a statement from the sponsors.

The contest draws more than 350,000 entries every year worldwide, with posters advancing through the district, multiple district, and international levels of competition. To date, more than 3 million children in 75 countries have participated in the contest.

And why shouldn't they? After all, the grand prize includes a cash award of \$2,500 in addition to a trip for the winner and two family members to New York City, NY for the awards ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations.

Thanks to the competition, the talent of local children has come to light. Take for example Tofi Coffin who, three years ago in 2004 as a Matafao Elementary School student, submitted a winning entry that won the multiple district competition in New Zealand to qualify for the international level competition.

Last year, local youngster Zachary Aaron Faulkner of South Pacific Academy was one of 23 merit award winners who received a certificate and a cash award of \$500.

Feleti Barstow Public Library's Public Services Coordinator Abe King said, "This just goes to show that American Samoa has young artists whose works can compete and win at the international level."

He added, "We're inviting all young island artists between the ages of 11-13 to enter the contest."

The deadline for submissions is Saturday, November 10 at 2 p.m. at the Feleti Barstow Library, with judging scheduled to take place on Monday, November 12. The name of the winner will be announced the following day on November 13.

More information on the contest can be obtained at the Feleti Barstow Public Library in Utulei.

Innovations in American Government Award deadline extended to Oct. 31

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today encouraged all government directors and deputy directors to apply for the \$100,000 Innovations in American Government Awards Program sponsored by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

The Innovations in American Government Awards, founded in 1986, is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. The award is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

Successful applicants will demonstrate innovative and effective government initiatives.

The Innovations in American Government Program is a significant force in recognizing and promoting excellence and creativity in the public sector.

To learn more about the Innovations Awards, call Rosa Maria Olortegui or Christiana Marchand at 617-495-0557 or email them at:

Rosa_Maria_Olortegui@ksg.harvard.edu

or visit

www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu

Due to the relatively low number of applications received from U.S. Territories, the deadline has been extended from October 15 to **Wednesday, October 31, 2007**.

Even if you do not apply this year, you are encouraged to consider current and previous practices implemented in your departments that are worthy of consideration for the Innovations in American Government Award.

Applicants who demonstrate that their initiative is truly creative, measurably effective, meets a significant need, and can be transferred to other jurisdictions will be selected as finalists.

Finalists' programs will be visited and evaluated by experts, and will field questions from a selection committee headed by the Kennedy School's David Gergen.

The prize money is awarded specifically to support winning programs in the teaching of their model to other jurisdictions.

Each winner takes a unique approach to meeting community needs and achieving real results. Because each of these programs is a model for government's capacity to do good, and do it well, the \$100,000 prize specifically supports dissemination to other jurisdictions.

"This is a great incentive and challenge to take the lead in proposing innovative ways to offer change that will result in accepted practice at all levels of our government," said Governor Togiola. "It will result in positive change in government and a confidence booster for the public in how it views the commitment of public servants."

BHE Announces Dr. Tagoilelagi as New Chairman

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

The Board of Higher Education (BHE), the governing body that oversees policy decisions at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), announced last week that they have selected HTC Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi to the post of BHE chairman. HC Pemerika Tauiilili, previously chairman for the past six years, will remain on the BHE in the position of vice chairman. "I've accepted the vice chairmanship so that I may help the new Board as they get used to their role as trustees for the Community College," said Tauiilili, "especially now that ASCC has taken on its four-year Teacher Education program, and is also preparing for an accreditation review next year."

HTC Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi, who joined the BHE along with five other new members last year, brings with him over 33 years of experience in the field of education, including a previous tenure as Director of the Department of Education. Since 2000, he has served on the staff of the Governor's Office, where he currently works as Commissioner of Insurance. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State Christian College, and went to receive his Masters and Doctorate degrees from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. "Teaching is my profession, so it is in my blood, and education is where my heart is," said Dr. Tagoilelagi. "As BHE chairman, I hope to enhance education in American Samoa at the college level."

Looking back, Tauiilili said he feels the previous BHE made a number of significant accomplishments. "We set five priorities in areas where ASCC has made great strides," he reflected. "We have worked with the ASCC administration in developing the Teacher Education program, now in its second year and enjoying capacity enrollment. Another priority of the BHE, the college's Nursing Program, has graduated a record number of Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses. The Trades & Technology Institute continues to move forward under the leadership of a new Dean, and with renovated facilities and improved equipment. (Continued on page 5)

BHE Announces Dr. Tagoilelagi as New Chairman *(from page 4)*



Last week, the Board of Higher Education at ASCC selected Uta Dr. Laloulu Tagoilelagi (seated) as its new chairman. Previous chairman Pemerika Tauilili (second right) will continue with the Board as vice chairman. Standing behind Laloulu are Board members (l-r) Lauifi Tauilili, Feiloaiga Panama (Student Representative), Rev. Sekuini Sevaetasi, Mine Pasi, ASCC Acting President Dr. Seth Galea'i, Pemerika Tauilili and Sapini Situ'u. Not pictured: Dr. Claire Poumele. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

The College Bound program, which aims to attract more high school students to ASCC, has enjoyed its highest enrollment to date. I take special pride in the establishment of the Samoan Language and Culture Institute, which now combines research, the development of teaching materials, and courses in Samoan and Pacific studies, along with an outreach component in the community, under one division."

Tauilili continued, "With the help of Capital Improvement Project funds from the Department of the Interior, most of the college's buildings have been renovated. This source of funding also aided us in the construction of the new Library. Currently, the college has the former auditorium under renovation, transforming the space into one large lecture classroom, with additional smaller classrooms and offices. We currently have plans for a new multipurpose auditorium and Student Center, provided we can locate the resources for this ambitious project." Tauilili said he now plans to spend more time on his "second career" writing texts on Samoan language and culture. "I have four books under development, which I had to set aside to concentrate on BHE matters," he explained. "I also have a research project I want to finish that deals with natural remedies."

As he embarks on his new role as BHE chairman, Dr. Tagoilelagi has already formulated some goals he would like to pursue. "I would like the Board, the President, and the faculty to continue working harmoniously to raise the level of student academic performance," he said. "I would also like to see a long term Professional Development strategy to meet the needs of ASCC instructors. For now, we need to concentrate on affirming and maintaining our accreditation status, but I would like to work towards adding additional four year programs in the coming years."

Besides Chairman Dr. Tagoilelagi and vice chairman Tauilili, the BHE includes Dr. Claire Poumele, Lauifi Tauilili, Rev. Sekuini Seva'aetasi, Mine Pase, Sapini Situ'u, and student representative Feiloaiga Panama.

Get your share of the \$200K available from DBAS for home renovation loans

The Development Bank of American Samoa has announced the availability of \$200,000 in direct financing for home renovation loans. The announcement comes just in time for many locals who long to spruce up their homes for the upcoming holiday season.

The application package is available at the DBAS office in Pago Pago and applications will be accepted between October 22-26, 2007 on a first come, first-served basis.

The maximum loan amount is \$10,000 with a maximum term of 84 months (7 years).

The best thing is - the fixed interest rate is an affordably low 9.50%.

There is a \$75 non-refundable application fee and more information can be obtained by visiting the DBAS office or calling 633-4031.

ASCC YANA Coalition Celebrates 4th Anniversary

(PRESS RELEASE) In October 2003, a coalition of faculty, staff and students at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) formed an organization they named YANA, which stands for “You Are Not Alone”. In the wake of an alarming rise in teen suicides to 11 cases in a single year, two of them ASCC students, the organizers of the first YANA coalition sought to create an easily-accessible support entity for youth in the Territory facing depression, anxiety, substance abuse or other emotional issues. “We proceeded from the idea that most suicides happen when a person feels that he or she has no one to turn to,” recalled Mrs. Rosevonne Pato, who served as YANA chairperson for its first three years. “We made it our goal to train students on how to help their peers through times of crisis, as well as to provide as much of an educational background as possible on the factors that can lead to these crises.”

Four years on from its inception, YANA remains a vital part of campus life at ASCC, as seen when the coalition celebrated its fourth anniversary last week. Over the last four years, on a regular basis YANA has conducted student workshops covering topics such as problem solving communication, crisis intervention and suicide prevention. During the organization’s anniversary celebration this past Thursday, 29 students received their certificates of completion after attending the most recent YANA training session, a collaborative effort by Mrs. Pato and counselors Mark Mageo and Annie Panama which took place on two consecutive Saturdays earlier this month. As ASCC Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilia Le’i explained during her speech at the anniversary celebration, a total of 119 people have received certification in communications, problem solving and suicide prevention since the beginning of YANA four years ago. Certified individuals have included not only ASCC students, but also counselors from agencies such as the Department of Education, Social Services, TEMCO, and Catholic Social Services, as well as student leaders from the Territory’s high schools.

Dr. Le’i went on to commend the ASCC Student Government Association (SGA) for their ongoing support of YANA through funds raised in the yearly Miss ASCC Pageant, and to thank Blue Sky Communications for their contribution of a cell phone and dedicated line. The celebration also featured a well-received speech from special guest Dr. Jean Asuega, who shared her thoughts on the power of the mind to control one’s feelings and behavior. Dr. Asuega shared real life examples of the pressures college students experience in their daily lives, and emphasized that everyone has the power to turn negative thoughts into positive ones.



Counselor Mark Mageo, who currently serves as YANA chairperson, explained that the coalition tries to hold at least one training session a year. They also maintain a 24-hour crisis line which individuals can call to seek counseling or emotional support. Mageo acknowledged the continuing support of Blue Sky Communications in keeping the crisis line open, and said the coalition would like to offer more training and services, once they can secure the needed funding. To this end, the YANA organizers have applied for a Community Service Block Grant, which they hope will allow them to expand their training sessions to once every semester. Mageo also said that the coalition has “something memorable” in mind for their 5th anniversary in October of 2008.

Students or youths with issues troubling them can call the YANA crisis line at 252-YANA (9262).

ASCC counselor and You Are Not Alone (YANA) Coalition chairman Mark Mageo takes a break during a recent training session on crisis intervention. The YANA Coalition recently celebrated four years of helping students at ASCC and in the community through challenging episodes in their lives. (Courtesy Photo)

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa. Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to: Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)

Application deadline for the Innovations in American Government Awards Program extended for two weeks

All American Samoa Government department and agency directors and deputy directors are being encouraged by Governor Togiola Tulafono to apply for the \$100,000 Innovations in American Government Awards Program sponsored by the John F. Kennedy School of Government on the prestigious campus of Harvard University.

The Innovations in American Government Program is a significant force in recognizing and promoting excellence and creativity in the public sector.

The application deadline has been extended from October 15 to Wednesday, October 31 due to the low number of applicants from the US Territories.

The only Samoan to attend the program two years ago was then Tualatai faipule Rep. Olo Ropati Tagovailoa Atimalala who described his trip as “a wonderful experience” that helped him in his leadership role as a lawmaker in the Fono.

After he returned from his trip, Olo couldn’t stop sharing his experience, calling it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that helped him gain a deeper understanding of government and its operations.

“Not everyone gets the chance to walk the halls of Harvard University and I am grateful for the opportunity afforded to me,” Olo said at the time. Olo attended not one but two different programs at Harvard University during his two-year term as a faipule.

The Innovations in American Government Awards was founded in 1986 and is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

The award is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

Successful applicants must demonstrate innovative and effective government initiatives, and those who choose not to apply this year are encouraged to consider current and previous practices implemented in their respective departments that are worthy of consideration for the award.

Finalists will be chosen from a pool of applicants who demonstrate that their initiative is truly creative, measurably effective, meets a significant need, and can be transferred to other jurisdictions.

Finalists’ programs will be visited and evaluated by experts, in addition to fielding questions from a selection committee headed by Kennedy School's David Gergen. The prize money is awarded specifically to support winning programs in the teaching of their model to other jurisdictions.

Each winner takes a unique approach to meeting community needs and achieving real results. Because each of the programs is a model for government's capacity to do well, the \$100,000 prize specifically supports dissemination to other jurisdictions.

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More information on the awards can be obtained by calling Rosa Maria Olortegui or Christiana Marchand at 617-495-0557 or email them at: Rosa_Maria_Olortegui@ksg.harvard.edu

Information is also available online at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu